Roads in Uttar Pradesh

†2908. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for construction of metalled roads in the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh during the Ninth Five Year Plan together with the district-wise amount actually released;

(b) the amount actually spent on construction of roads in the backward districts during the said period together with the reasons for the balance amount remaining unspent; and

(c) the amount provided for connecting all the villages of the country particularly the villages of the backward districts of Uttar Pradesh with the.major roads during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) District-wise information about the amount allocated, released and spent on construction of metalled roads is not maintained since the matter relates primarily to the State Governments.

(c) The objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide all weather road connectivity to all Unconnected Habitations in the rural areas with population of 500 persons and above [250 persons in respect of Hill States of North-East, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and the Desert Areas as identified in the Desert Development Programme as well as the Tribal (Schedule V) Areas] by the end of the Tenth Plan Period. During the first year of Tenth Plan Period (2002-03) an amount of Rs. 2469.00 crore has been released to States/UTs. In regard to Uttar Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 240.54 crore has been released.

House to BPL People

2909. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one third population of the country is living below the poverty line;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have made any arrangement for providing houses to these one third poor people;

(c) if so, the number of persons which have already been provided with houses so far under this arrangement togetherwith the number of persons which could not be provided with houses by Government; and

(d) the comprehensive details of the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) As per the estimates prepared by the Planning Commission, 27.09% rural population of the country is living below the poverty line (BPL) in 1999-2000.

(b) to (d) According to the 1991 Census, the housing shortage in rural areas in the country is 137.2 lakh which includes 103.1 lakh unserviceable kutcha houses and 3.41 lakh houseless. The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of rural housing schemes— Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) being the flagship programme under which assistance is provided for construction of houses for below the poverty line families in rural areas. So far 96 lakh houses have been constructed/upgraded for below the poverty line rural families under the IAY.

This Ministry is trying to provide assistance for construction of as many houses for BPL rural families as possible within the available financial resources.

Construction of road in Kaljikhal Block in Pauri Garhwal

2910. SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 301 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th December, 2002 and state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by PWD, Garhwal regarding construction of road in Kaljikhal Block in Pauri Garhwal District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c), if not, the reasons for delay in initiation of work for paving of the said road?